big project. When so many projects are going on with them, it is a very small project we have asked for.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

Setting up of hostels for working women

*44. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:†

DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up some more hostels for working women in the country in the near future; and

(b) if so, what are the names of these places and by when these hostels are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SMT. MARGARET ALVA): (a) Government has a scheme to assist Voluntary Organisations to set up hostels for Working Women during 1989-90 under the Scheme of Financial Assistance for Construction/Expansion of Hostel Buildings for Working Women with Day-care Centres for Children.

(b) The names of the places for new hostels are not finalised by the Government till such time the proposals are receivd from Voluntary Organisations. The Hostels are likely to be completed within two years from the date of release of first instalment of the grant-in-aid.

श्री चन्द्रिका प्रसाद त्रिपाठी : नये स्थानों के चुनाव के लिए आपने क्या प्रक्रिया अपनायी है, खोलने के लिए आधार क्या बनायेंगे ? भले ही आज तय नहीं किया हो आपने मगर भविष्य में खोलने के लिए कुछ उसकी आपने कैटेगरीज बनायी होंगी कि कहां कहां खोलने की संभावनाएं रहेंगी. . (**व्यवधान**) क्राइटेरिया क्या होगा उसका ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, as I said, we consider the proposal when we receive it from voluntary organisations. The minimum number of working women must be 25 for a hostel. We provide 50 per cent of the land cost and 75 per cent of construction cost. We have enforced a ceiling of Rs. 2000 for income of the woman in the women's hostel because they are meant to benefit economically weaker sections of women who cannot afford to go in for other types of housing facilities when they come to cities. We have also imposed a minimum of 3 years' stay in the hostel so that in the meantime they can find other kind of accommodation to look after themselves.

These are the only criteria that we are following, and we have set a target of 60 hostels for the final year of Seventh Plan to be achieved.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : माननीया सभापति जी, मंत्री महोदया से मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जून 1988 में उनकी अध्यक्षता में केन्द्रीय सलाहकार समिति की बैठक हुई थी जिसमें इन होस्टलों के निरीक्षण, सुधार और विकास के लिए कुछ निश्चय किये गये थे, वे निश्चय क्या हैं और क्या इस समिति की बैठक जून 1988 के बाद भी हुई है ? मेरे प्रश्न का दूसरा हिस्सा है कि इस समय देश में श्रमजीवी महिलाओं के लिए होस्टल भवनों की कितनी आवश्यकता है और अभी तक कितने होस्टल्स कार्यरत हैं और उनमें कितनी श्रमजीवी महिलाएं रह रही हैं और क्या यह सच है कि 31 दिसम्बर, 1988 तक कामकाजी महिलाओं के लिए 18 होस्टल स्वीकृत

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Chandrika Prasad Tripathi.

किये जा चुके हैं, यदि वे स्वीकृत हैं तो कहां कहां के लिए हैं और कब खोले जायेंगे और कितनी श्रमजीवी महिलाओं को आवास स्थान इनमें उपलब्ध हो सकेगा ?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: There are a number of questions. It is true that for the first time a National Committee to look into the management of hostels throughout the country was set up last year under my own Chairmanship and the Committee did meet last year. We have today in the country 511 working womens hostels providing accommodation to 32,510 persons. When I say 'we', I do not mean to say that the Department of Women and Child Development runs them. They are only funded by us as I clarified earlier. They are being run by voluntary organisations or registered bodies as per the guidelines.

The hon. Member asked about the decisions that were taken at that Committee meeting. There were certain decisions taken. For instance the certain decisions taken. For instance the maximum salary limit for admission into these hostels which was Rs. 1,500 was raised to Rs. 2,000. It was also decided that State-level advisory committees to look into the complaints and other problems of the decided that every hostel should have a management committee consisting of social workers, the inmates and so on so that there is an atmosphere of understanding within the hostel itself.

SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Sir, now days, more and more women are working in different fields. For some of them it is necessary to leave their place and go to some other place for the purpose of employment' Due to scarcity in housing, especially, in the cities, the need for such hostels is much more intense. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what are the norms by which you select the voluntary organisations.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, the normal practice is that the proposals from the registered voluntary organisations as per the guidelines, we have voluntary organisations and public trusts in the fields of women's welfare and women's education which are made eligible for grant under this scheme—are supposed to come from the State Governments verified and certified they they are organisations which are involved in the field. But we have complaints from the voluntary groups that sometimes the State Governments do not forward the proposals for months together, creating problems. Therefore, the rule was amended two years ago wherein we say that an advance copy should be sent to us when they submit the proposal. We give three months' time to the State Governments to process the applications and send them to us with objections, if they have any. If the State Governments do not send us their objections or any adverse reports within this period, we would presume that they do not have any objections and we would give the grants in time so that the organisations can get the same without any delay.

कुमारी सईदा खातून : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदया जी से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि कामकाजी महिलाओं के लिए जो उन्होंने होस्टल निर्मित करने का भविष्य में और प्रावधान रखा है, तो किसी जिले में अगर मान लो एक है, तो उससे ज्यादा खुलवाने के लिए महिला कर्मचारियों की तादाद पर रखा है या फिर पापुलेशन के लिहाज से है कि एक की बजाए वह दो होस्टल दे सकती है ?

मैं यह भी जानना चाहूंगी कि कितनी राशि, जो परसेंटेज की आपने 50 प्रतिशत तथा 75 प्रतिशत रखी है—जमीन के लिए 50 प्रतिशत और भवन-निर्माण के लिए 75 प्रतिशत का प्रावधान रखा है, [illegible] कितनी राशि हम ले सकते हैं ? एक लाख या एक करोड़ तक की राशि हम ले सकते हैं। उसकी

मैक्सिमम लिमिट में जाना चाहती हूं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is the maximum limit?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, we do not go into the population or anything in a particular place. The point is that we give the grants to those voluntary organisations who are prepared to run these hostels. We cannots just keep giving them to anybody and everybody. The grant is non-refundable. Once it is given, it is given and we do not recover anything out of it. But we release it in four instalments. Then first is when it is sanctioned. We get the utilisation certificate and then we release it in instalments. The demand for hostels for working women is growing throughout the country as the number of working women is increasing. I must say that this scheme by itself cannot solve the problem all over. It is our effort at helping those who are really in need. We hope that the State Governments, other Corporations and bodies would also respond to the needs of those women who they are employing at the local level. There is no maximum limit but it is recommended depending on the number of rooms and the demand in each place. We have not fixed any maximum limit.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Is the hon. Minister a working woman or not? (*Interruptions*).

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Sir, the main thrust of the question was to find out as to how many hostels are likely to be set up in the coming years. The answer is very evasive. In the first instance, it is said that this is to be done by the voluntary organisations and then you give a general principle. I would like to know very specifically as to how many applications are pending with you from different State Governments or voluntary organisations as stipulated by you. And what is the present position, how long will you take for them to be sanctioned and when are you likely to have all the 60 hostels which you have stipulated for the Seventh Plan period?

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I told you, this year's budget has started only on the 1st of April. We have no pending applications from last year. We had the target of 60 hostels for last year but we could only give 55 because we had only 55 approved projects which we could sanction. For this year, the Grants Committee meets every month. It is only one month since the financial year has started. Depending on the receipt of applications we will grant them sanction. In fact, we had no problem of having more applications than we sanctioned in the last year. We could only get 55 applications though we had the target of 60.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: That means we are recognising the need for more hostels for working women. Why should you depend on voluntary organisations, why does the Government not take it up?

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is the suggestion for action. They will consider it.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: They should say that. When there is recognition for more working women hostels...

MR. CHAIRMAN: That is a bigger question. There are problems. They are only giving grant-in-aid.

SHRI DEBA PRASAD RAY: I would like to know whether any assessment has been made by the Ministry to find out as to how many working women are there in the

country who deserve to be housed in these hostels. Part (b) of my question is, whether the Ministry has any mechanism to ensure that the right kind of beneficiaries are accommodated in such hostels being run by different voluntary agencies.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, I must admit that I do not have the figures about the actual number of working women. If you want, I can get them from the Ministry of Labour, but right now I do not have the information with me.

About looking after the women in these hostels and their problems, I may mention that we have asked them to have management committees. Two things we have done in the last two years. Originally children were not admitted into the working women's hotels. We have, over the last two years, changed this rule and children under the age of 8 are allowed to stay with the mother in the hostel. We are providing day care centres in 171 hostels out of 511 so that children are looked after when mothers go to work. Last year we have brought an amendment, particularly after the incident of Sati in Rajasthan, that 5 per cent of the seats in hostels should be reserved for widows so that they can find accommodation whenever they have a real problem.

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन : माननीय सभापति महोदय मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदया से जानना चाहती हूं कि यह वर्किंग गर्ल्ज होस्टल जो खोले जा रहे हैं, इन का संचालन क्या सरकार की देख-रेख में होगा या फिर स्वंय सेवी संस्थाओं की तरफ से किया जाएगा और इन होस्टल्ज में रहने के लिए क्या कोई अवधि की व्यवस्था की गई है तथा सरकार का नियन्त्रण किस प्रकार से होगा ?

SHRRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Sir, as I said, we are only the grant-giving agency. The voluntary organisations have their own management committees. We have requested the Department of Social Welfare in the States to set up such committees to look after these hostels. In some States these committees are workink very well. Perhaps in some States they have not been functioning as efficiently and, therefore, we are prepared to take it up with the State Governments again to see that they do it.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I would like to know from the Minister if she would consider having a day-care centre for women in Parliament because we also have children below 8 and it breaks our heart all the time to leave them at home. So, you should set up an example here, you should start from here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can put a separate question for that.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: I am putting the question seriously.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you referring to the children of the Members of Parliament?

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Hopefully, Sir.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: We require a minimum of 25 children under the age... (*Interruptions*). Let me complete. We need a minimum of 25 children to sanction a day-care centre, not from one family. I am sorry. But having consideration for a number of young women like her who are coming to Parliament and also perhaps some of the younger M.Ps. who would like to leave their children, if she could put 25 parents together to bring their children, I would find an organisation to run it here also.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Wonderful. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question No. 45.